

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTION OF CHRIS LEDOUX TO COUNTRY MUSIC

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 81, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 81) recognizing the contribution of Chris LeDoux to country music.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great singer/songwriter, rodeo champion and true cowboy, Chris LeDoux. Sadly, Chris passed away on March 9 at the age of 56 in Casper, WY.

Chris was a loyal son, devoted husband and loving father. As a member of an air force family, Chris lived in many places throughout his childhood. He finally found his home in Wyoming while a sophomore in high school. In 1972, he married his lovely wife Peggy in Kaycee, WY, where he eventually built his ranch and fathered five wonderful children.

Chris was a cowboy through and through. He began riding in junior rodeos when he was only 13. He tried his hand at several rodeo events, but before too long, it became apparent he was best on bareback broncs. After winning the Wyoming State High School Bareback Riding Championship and the National Intercollegiate Bareback Riding Championship, he joined the rodeo circuit full time. This choice brought many injuries and tough days on the road, but all his hard work paid off in December of 1976 when he won the world championship title for bareback bronc riding at the National Rodeo Finals in Oklahoma City.

While on the rodeo circuit, Chris wrote songs about cowboys and the rodeo life he was leading. His songs were filled with both his love of music and his love of the West. In past interviews, Chris expressed that next to family, freedom was his most valued asset.

Just as he cherished the freedom of his western life, Chris was adamant about his musical freedom. He was determined to produce music in his own way rather than be "owned by a big company." By 1989, Chris had released 22 albums, mostly cassette tapes produced by his parents that he sold at concerts and rodeos. That same year, Garth Brooks had a hit with, "Much Too Young," which included a line about "a worn-out tape of Chris LeDoux." Chris soon became the country star he was always meant to be.

Chris LeDoux was not only a world class entertainer, he was a friend. My wife Susan fondly recalls his great love

for his family and his warm smile. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and his loyal fans.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 81) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 81

Whereas Chris LeDoux, a former rodeo world champion in bareback riding and country music star, died on March 9, 2005;

Whereas Chris LeDoux was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, in 1948;

Whereas Chris LeDoux won the Wyoming State Rodeo Championship in high school, continued riding in college, earning a rodeo scholarship, and rode professionally, winning the bareback championship at the National Rodeo Finals;

Whereas Chris LeDoux made important contributions to the country music community, through songs such as "Whatcha Gonna Do With a Cowboy" and "Much Too Young to Feel this Damn Old";

Whereas Chris LeDoux worked with well-known artists throughout his career, such as Garth Brooks and Charlie Daniels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contribution of Chris LeDoux to country music;

(2) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret of the death of Chris LeDoux; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to the House of Representatives and the family of Chris LeDoux.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, March 11. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for the benefit of our colleagues, tomorrow the Senate will be in a period of morning business. As I announced earlier, there will be no rollcall votes during tomorrow's session. The next vote will occur Monday afternoon around 5:30 p.m.

A few moments ago, we completed action on the bankruptcy bill. I want

to particularly thank all of our colleagues for the work on the bill and, in particular, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator HATCH, Senator SESSIONS, and others on both sides of the aisle who have been working on this legislation for, lo, these many years—7 or 8 years, I was told by Senator BIDEN a while ago.

Next week, we will be considering the budget resolution. We will have long, long evening sessions, and many, many rollcall votes throughout the week.

I ask, on behalf of myself and the majority leader, for Senators to make themselves available throughout the week. And I particularly want to emphasize that next Friday, the end of the week, could be a long day. I want to let all Members know there is an overwhelming likelihood that Friday will be a full day. Members should expect to be here throughout the day next Friday. We will go up into the evening. It will be an unusual Friday. We don't have many of those in the course of a year. But next Friday will be an unusual Friday, and people should make plans accordingly.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I would like to say on behalf of those who didn't support the bankruptcy bill that, in all fairness, I think it was a spirited and a very positive debate, during the course of the debate for over 2 weeks. But that really boiled down to about 6 or 7 days. We entertained 30 amendments to the bankruptcy bill. Not one amendment went on extraordinarily long. Members took a limited amount of time, expressed themselves, debated quickly and thoroughly, and voted.

I hope that we can continue to follow that model. I think, as I have said, we got perilously close to debate in the U.S. Senate, which hardly ever happens around here. I hope that we can continue along those lines in the future.

I thank the Senator from Kentucky for yielding.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if I could just say to my friend, I couldn't agree more. I think the debate was handled very nicely. Members got an opportunity to have their say, to get their votes, and the Senate has done itself proud. In spite of the mixed views about the outcome, the Senate did itself proud with the first two bills this year, and I hope it is a good recipe for the future.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Friday, March 11, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.